

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A method of displaying content to a user, the content being formed  
2 from a sequence of data frames, each data frame being encoded using a predetermined  
3 algorithm, the sequence of data frames including at least one criteria frame indicating one or  
4 more criteria to be satisfied in order to allow at least some of the content to be displayed, the  
5 method comprising the steps of:

6                    Determining if the next data frame is a criteria frame; and,  
7                    In response to a successful determination;  
8                    Determining the one or more criteria ;  
9                    Comparing the one or more criteria to user data, the user data indicating  
10 whether the criteria are satisfied for the respective user;  
11                    Decoding a number of the following data frames in response to a successful  
12 comparison; and,  
13                    Displaying the content contained therein.

14                   2.       A method according to claim 1, wherein if the first one or more data  
15 frames do not include a criteria frame, the method further includes the steps of:  
16                    Decoding the first one or more data frames; and,  
17                    Displaying the content contained therein.

18                   3.       A method according to claim 1, the method including determining the  
19 number of following data frames to decode by decoding all the following data frames in  
20 sequence until the next criteria frame is reached.

21                   4.       A method according to claim 1, the method further including:  
22                    displaying selected ones of the one or more criteria to the user, so as to allow  
23 the user to accept or reject the criteria; and,  
24                    Comparing the one or more criteria to the user data in response to acceptance  
25 of the criteria.

26                   5.       A method according to claim 4, the method including determining the  
27 number of following data frames to decode in accordance with input commands received  
28 from the user.

6. A method according to claim 1, the criteria including the payment of funds, the user data indicating the balance of funds available for the respective user, the method including determining the comparison to be unsuccessful if insufficient funds are available.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein if insufficient funds are available, the method further includes the steps of:

- Receiving transaction details from the user;
- Transferring the transaction details to a remote transaction system, the remote transaction system being adapted to authorize the transaction;
- Update the user data based on the transaction; and,
- Re-compare the one or more criteria to the user data.

8. A method according to any of claim 1, the method being implemented using an end station, the method of comparing the indicated criteria including the steps of:

Transferring an indication of the criteria from the end station to a base station via a communications system, the base station being adapted to:

Compare the indicated criteria to user data, the user data indicating whether the criteria are satisfied for the respective user; and,

Generate a notification in response to a successful comparison; and,

Monitor for the notification; and,

In response to the notification decode a number of the following data frames and display the content contained therein.

9. A method according to claim 8, the method including determining the number of following data frames to decode by decoding a number of the following frames in accordance with a predetermined number specified in the notification generated by the base station, the base station generating the predetermined number based on the user data.

10. A method according to claim 8, the method further including the steps of:

Generating an identifier that uniquely identifies the user;

Transferring the identifier from the end station to the base station together with the indication of the criteria, the base station using the identifier to select the user data corresponding to the respective user.

1 11. A method according to any of claim 1, the content including video  
2 and/or audio content.

1 12. A method according to any of claim 1, the sequence of data frames  
2 being in the form of a video stream.

1 13. A method of displaying content to a user, the method including a  
2 sequence of data frames, each data frame being encoded using a predetermined algorithm, the  
3 sequence of data frames including at least one criteria frame indicating one or more criteria to  
4 be satisfied in order to allow at least some of the content to be displayed.

1 14. Computer executable code representing content to be displayed to a  
2 user, the computer executable code comprising a sequence of data frames, each data frame  
3 being encoded using a predetermined algorithm, the sequence of data frames including at  
4 least one criteria frame indicating one or more criteria to be satisfied in order to allow at least  
5 some of the content to be displayed, the computer executable code being adapted to cause a  
6 suitably programmed processor to:

7 Determine if the next data frame is a criteria frame; and,

8 In response to a successful determination;

9 Determine the one or more criteria ;

10 Compare the one or more criteria to user data, the user data indicating whether  
11 the criteria are satisfied for the respective user;

12 Decode a number of the following data frames in response to a successful  
13 comparison; and,

14 Display the content contained therein.

1 15. Computer executable code representing content to be displayed to a  
2 user, the computer executable code including a sequence of data frames, each data frame  
3 being encoded using a predetermined algorithm, the sequence of data frames including at  
4 least one criteria frame indicating one or more criteria to be satisfied in order to allow at least  
5 some of the content to be displayed.

1 16. A computer program product comprising computer executable code for  
2 causing an end station to display content to a user, the content being formed from a sequence  
3 of data frames, each data frame being encoded using a predetermined algorithm, the sequence

4 of data frames including at least one criteria frame indicating one or more criteria to be  
5 satisfied in order to allow at least some of the content to be displayed, the computer  
6 executable code being adapted to cause the end station to:

7           determine if the next data frame is a criteria frame; and,

8           In response to a successful determination;

9           Determining the one or more criteria ;

10           Comparing the one or more criteria to user data, the user data indicating  
11 whether the criteria are satisfied for the respective user;

12           Decoding a number of the following data frames in response to a successful  
13 comparison; and,

14           Displaying the content contained therein.

17.    A computer program product according to claim 16, the computer  
program product including a codec, the codec being adapted to co-operate with media player  
applications software implemented by the end station.

18.    A computer program product comprising computer executable code for  
causing an end station to display content to a user, the content being formed from a sequence  
of data frames, each data frame being encoded using a predetermined algorithm, the sequence  
of data frames including at least one criteria frame indicating one or more criteria to be  
satisfied in order to allow at least some of the content to be displayed.

19.    An end station for displaying content to a user, the content being  
formed from a sequence of data frames, each data frame being encoded using a  
predetermined algorithm, the sequence of data frames including at least one criteria frame  
indicating one or more criteria to be satisfied in order to allow at least some of the content to  
be displayed, the end station comprising:

6           A display;

7           A processor, the processor being adapted to:

8           Receive the content;

9           Determine if the next data frame is a criteria frame; and,

10          In response to a successful determination;

11          Determine the one or more criteria ;

12          Compare the one or more criteria to user data, the user data indicating whether  
13 the criteria are satisfied for the respective user;

14                    Decode a number of the following data frames in response to a successful  
15 comparison; and,  
16                    Display the content contained therein.

1                    20.     An end station according to claim 19, the end station further including  
2 a communications port for coupling to a communications system.

1                    21.     A method of controlling the display of content to a user at an end  
2 station, the content being formed from a sequence of data frames, each data frame being  
3 encoded using a predetermined algorithm, the sequence of data frames including at least one  
4 criteria frame indicating one or more criteria to be satisfied in order to allow at least some of  
5 the content to be displayed, the method comprising:  
6                    Receiving an indication of the criteria from the end station;  
7                    Comparing the indicated criteria to the user data to determine if the criteria are  
8 satisfied;  
9                    Generating a notification in response to a successful comparison;  
10                    Transferring the notification to the end station, the end station responding to  
11 the notification to:  
12                    Decode a number of the following data frames; and,  
13                    Display the content contained therein.

1                    22.     A method according to claim 21, the end station being adapted to  
2 generate an identifier that uniquely identifies the end station and transfer the identifier to the  
3 base station together with the indication of the criteria, the method including using the  
4 identifier to select the user data corresponding to the respective user.

1                    23.     A method according to claim 21, the method further including:  
2                    Determining the number of following data frames to decode based on the user  
3 data; and,  
4                    Transferring the number to the end station together with the notification.

1                    24.     A method according to claim 21, the criteria including the payment of  
2 funds, the user data indicating the balance of funds available for the respective user and the  
3 method including generating the notification if sufficient funds are available.

1           25.    A method according to claim 24, wherein if insufficient funds are  
2 available the method includes:

3                   Generating an insufficient funds notification;

4                   Transferring the insufficient funds notification to the end station, the end  
5 station being adapted to respond to the insufficient funds notification by:

6                   Displaying a transaction screen to the user, allowing the user to enter  
7 transaction details; and,

8                   Transferring the transaction details to a remote transaction system via the  
9 communications port, the remote transaction system being adapted to authorize the  
10 transaction and transfer an indication of the authorization to the base station;

11                   Receiving the indication of the authorization;

12                   Updating the user data;

13                   Re-comparing the criteria to the transaction content; and,

14                   Generating the notification in response to a successful comparison.

1           26.    A method of controlling the display of content to a user at an end  
2 station, the content being formed from a sequence of data frames, each data frame being  
3 encoded using a predetermined algorithm, the sequence of data frames including at least one  
4 criteria frame indicating one or more criteria to be satisfied in order to allow at least some of  
5 the content to be displayed.

1           27.    A computer program product comprising computer executable code for  
2 causing a base station to control the display of content to a user at an end station, the content  
3 being formed from a sequence of data frames, each data frame being encoded using a  
4 predetermined algorithm, the sequence of data frames including at least one criteria frame  
5 indicating one or more criteria to be satisfied in order to allow at least some of the content to  
6 be displayed, the computer executable code being adapted to cause the base station to:

7                   Receiving an indication of the criteria from the end station;

8                   Comparing the indicated criteria to the user data to determine if the criteria are  
9 satisfied;

10                   Generating a notification in response to a successful comparison;

11                   Transferring the notification to the end station, the end station responding to  
12 the notification to:

13                   Decode a number of the following data frames; and,

14                    Display the content contained therein.

1                    28.     A computer program product comprising computer executable code for  
2 causing a base station to control the display of content to a user at an end station, the content  
3 being formed from a sequence of data frames, each data frame being encoded using a  
4 predetermined algorithm, the sequence of data frames including at least one criteria frame  
5 indicating one or more criteria to be satisfied in order to allow at least some of the content to  
6 be displayed.

1                    29.     A base station for controlling the display of content to a user at an end  
2 station, the content being formed from a sequence of data frames, each data frame being  
3 encoded using a predetermined algorithm, the sequence of data frames including at least one  
4 criteria frame indicating one or more criteria to be satisfied in order to allow at least some of  
5 the content to be displayed, the base station comprising:

6                    A store for storing user data;  
7                    A processor, the processor being adapted to:  
8                    Receive an indication of the criteria from the end station;  
9                    Compare the indicated criteria to the user data to determine if the criteria are  
10 satisfied;  
11                    Generate a notification in response to a successful comparison;  
12                    Transfer the notification to the end station, the end station responding to the  
13 notification to:  
14                    Decode a number of the following data frames; and,  
15                    Display the content contained therein.

1                    30.     A base station according to claim 29, the base station further  
2 comprising communications port for coupling to a communications system and, the base  
3 station being adapted to communicate with the end station via the communications port.

1                    31.     A base station for controlling the display of content to a user at an end  
2 station, the content being formed from a sequence of data frames, each data frame being  
3 encoded using a predetermined algorithm, the sequence of data frames including at least one  
4 criteria frame indicating one or more criteria to be satisfied in order to allow at least some of  
5 the content to be displayed.

1           32.     A system for displaying content to a user at an end station, the content  
2 being formed from a sequence of data frames, each data frame being encoded using a  
3 predetermined algorithm, the sequence of data frames including at least one criteria frame  
4 indicating one or more criteria to be satisfied in order to allow at least some of the content to  
5 be displayed.

1           33.     A method of generating content to be displayed to a user at an end  
2 station, the content being formed from a sequence of data frames, each data frame being  
3 encoded using a predetermined algorithm, the sequence of data frames including at least one  
4 criteria frame indicating one or more criteria to be satisfied in order to allow at least some of  
5 the content to be displayed, the method comprising:

6                 Selecting the content to be displayed;

7                 Encoding the content as a number of data frames using a predetermined  
8 encoding algorithm;

9                 Specifying the one or more criteria to be included in the criteria frames;

10                Generating the one or more criteria frames in accordance with the specified  
11 criteria, the criteria frames being encoded using the predetermined algorithm; and,

12                Generating the sequence of data frames in accordance with the content, the  
13 sequence of data frames including the one or more criteria frames.

1           34.     A method according to claim 33, the criteria including details of one or  
2 more of:

3                 The number of criteria frames to be included;

4                 The relative separation of the criteria frames in the sequence of data frames;

5                 Payment content, including an indication of the payment required to display a  
6 predetermined amount of content; and,

7                 Information describing the author of the content.

1           35.     A method of generating content to be displayed to a user at an end  
2 station, the content being formed from a sequence of data frames, each data frame being  
3 encoded using a predetermined algorithm, the sequence of data frames including at least one  
4 criteria frame indicating one or more criteria to be satisfied in order to allow at least some of  
5 the content to be displayed.



1           36.     A computer program product comprising computer executable code  
2     which when implemented by a suitable processing system causes the processing system to  
3     generate content to be displayed to a user at an end station, the content being formed from a  
4     sequence of data frames, each data frame being encoded using a predetermined algorithm, the  
5     sequence of data frames including at least one criteria frame indicating one or more criteria to  
6     be satisfied in order to allow at least some of the content to be displayed, the computer  
7     executable code causing the processing system to:

8                 Allow a user to select the content to be displayed;

9                 Encode the content as a number of data frames using a predetermined  
10     encoding algorithm;

11                Allow the user to specifying the one or more criteria to be included in the  
12     criteria frames;

13                Generate the one or more criteria frames in accordance with the specified  
14     criteria, the criteria frames being encoded using the predetermined algorithm; and,

15                Generate the sequence of data frames in accordance with the content, the  
16     sequence of data frames including the one or more criteria frames.

17           37.     A computer program product comprising computer executable code  
18     which when implemented by a suitable processing system causes the processing system to  
19     generate content to be displayed to a user at an end station, the content being formed from a  
20     sequence of data frames, each data frame being encoded using a predetermined algorithm, the  
21     sequence of data frames including at least one criteria frame indicating one or more criteria to  
22     be satisfied in order to allow at least some of the content to be displayed.

23           38.     A processing system adapted to generate content to be displayed to a  
24     user at an end station, the content being formed from a sequence of data frames, each data  
25     frame being encoded using a predetermined algorithm, the sequence of data frames including  
26     at least one criteria frame indicating one or more criteria to be satisfied in order to allow at  
27     least some of the content to be displayed, the processing system comprises:

28                 An input for receiving commands from a user;

29                 A processor adapted to:

30                     Receive the content to be displayed;

31                     Encode the content as a number of data frames using a predetermined  
32     encoding algorithm;

11                   Receive input commands from the user specifying the one or more criteria to  
12                   be included in the criteria frames;  
13                   Generate the one or more criteria frames in accordance with the specified  
14                   criteria, the criteria frames being encoded using the predetermined algorithm; and,  
15                   Generate the sequence of data frames in accordance with the content, the  
16                   sequence of data frames including the one or more criteria frames.

1                   39.     A processing system adapted to generate content to be displayed to a  
2                   user at an end station, the content being formed from a sequence of data frames, each data  
3                   frame being encoded using a predetermined algorithm, the sequence of data frames including  
4                   at least one criteria frame indicating one or more criteria to be satisfied in order to allow at  
5                   least some of the content to be displayed.